Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

5   **1.**   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for synchronizing information in namespaces stored on one or computer storage media, the method comprising:

receiving an indication of a change to information in a first namespace, the indication comprising a notice that an entity was added to the first namespace;

10   based on the indication, determining if an entity ~~exists~~ in a second namespace exists that is related to the information;

if so, determining if the entity in the second namespace has a characteristic that conflicts with the information, the characteristic comprising a name of the entity in the second namespace; and

15   if a conflict exists:

creating a temporary placeholder within with the second namespace;

modifying the entity in the second namespace to resolve the conflict, wherein modifying the entity in the second namespace comprises:

associating the entity in the second namespace with an

20   indication that the name of the entity in the second namespace is no longer valid; and

altering the characteristic of the entity in the second namespace to eliminate the conflict; and

removing the temporary placeholder from the second namespace

25   after modifying the entity.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

5 **4.** (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[3]], wherein the conflict comprises a name collision between the entity in the first namespace and the entity in the second namespace.

5. (Cancelled)

10

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

15 **8.** (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[8]], ~~wherein the characteristic comprises a name of the entity, and~~ wherein altering the characteristic comprises modifying the name of the entity in the second namespace.

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10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein modifying the name comprises replacing the name with a unique identifier.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein modifying the name comprises setting a flag associated with the entity <u>in the second namespace</u> to indicate that the name of the entity <u>in the second namespace</u> is transient.

5 **12.** (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

13.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for synchronizing information in namespaces stored on one or more computer storage media, the method comprising:

receiving an indication of a change to information in a first namespace, the indication of the change comprising a notice of a reference to an entity in a second namespace, and wherein the reference indicates that the information in the first namespace refers to the entity;

~~based on the indication, determining if an entity exists in a second namespace related to the information;~~

determining that the entity has a characteristic that conflicts with the information in the first namespace;

creating a temporary representation of the entity within the second namespace, the temporary representation of the entity comprising a phantom entity in the second namespace;

receiving a second indication of a second change to information in the first namespace and, in response to the second indication, modifying a state of the phantom entity; and

removing the ~~temporary representation of the~~ phantom entity from the second namespace upon resolving the conflict between the characteristic of the entity and the information in the first namespace.

14.   (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim <u>13</u> [[16]], wherein the phantom entity includes a flag indicating [[the]] <u>a</u> state of the phantom entity.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim <u>13</u> [[18]], wherein the second indication comprises an instruction to create the entity in the second namespace.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 13.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable components, comprising:

a synchronization environment <u>comprising</u> ~~having~~ an associated external namespace, an associated central namespace, and a synchronization mechanism,

5 the synchronization mechanism being configured to receive<u>, in a first order that differs from a second order,</u> change information from the external namespace that identifies a plurality of changes to at least one object in the external namespace ~~the synchronization mechanism being configured to receive the change information in a first order that differs from a second order~~, the second order being <u>a</u> [[the]]

10 temporal order in which the <u>plurality of</u> changes occurred to the at least one object in the external namespace, the synchronization mechanism further comprising<u>:</u>

a name resolving component <u>being configured to avoid name collisions and comprising a first subspace for transient objects and a second subspace for non-transient objects, one or more of the non-transient objects</u>

15 <u>comprising objects that have not been identified as having a name that is no longer valid</u>; and

a temporary placeholder component within the central namespace, ~~the name resolving component being operative to avoid name collisions and~~ the temporary placeholder component <u>comprising an identifier on a</u>

20 <u>phantom entity in the central namespace, the phantom entity indicating that an object that is referred to by another object in the central namespace has not yet been formally created, the temporary placeholder component</u> being operative to<u>:</u>

avoid a conflict created by a dangling reference, the dangling reference comprising an error corresponding to one object in the central namespace referring to another object in the central namespace that does not exist; and[[,]]

~~when the conflict is resolved, the temporary placeholder component is configured to~~ be removed from the central namespace when the conflict is resolved.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 25, wherein the central namespace includes a plurality of objects that are correlated to a corresponding plurality of objects in the external namespace.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 25, wherein the name collision comprises an error corresponding to two objects in the central namespace having similar names.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 27 [[28]], wherein the transient objects comprise objects that have been identified as having a name that is no longer valid.

30. (Cancelled)

31.   (Cancelled)

32.   (Cancelled)

5   **33.**   (Cancelled)